

Message Text

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SUBJECT: GABONESE STUDENTS IN ROMANIA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. LOCAL PRESS CARRIED ARTICLE SEPTEMBER 18 COVERING MASS EXODUS OF GABONESE STUDENTS TO ROMANIA. ACCORDING TO DAILY "L'UNION" 440 ADDITIONAL GABONESE STUDENTS WILL PURSUE THEIR EDUCATION THIS YEAR IN BUCHAREST. FORTY OF THESE BENEFIT FROM ROMAINIAN SCHOLARSHIPS WHILE OTHER 400 WILL BE FINANCED BY GOG. TWO HUNDRED OF THIS GROUP LEFT FOR EUROPE SEPTEMBER 15. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, GABONESE STUDETS WILL BE TRAINED IN FOLLOWING DISCIPLINES: MINES TECHNOLOGY, GEOLOGY, "PETROLEUM", "PETRO-CHEMICALS", FOREST AND WOOD PRODUCTS IN - DUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, STOCK RAISING, "MINE EXPLOITATION", MERCHANDISE, "FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE", ELECTRONICS, COMPUTER SCIENCE, ATOMIC ENERGY "TECHNIQUES OF MATHEMATICS", ARCHITECTURE, HYDROLOGY AND MEDICINE. ARTICLE GOES ON TO NOTE THAT NEW GROUP OF STUDENTS SWELLS TOTAL OF GABONESE STUDYING IN ROMANIAN UNIVERSITIES TO 612.

3. "L'UNION" ALSO QUOTED ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR NEGREA AS SAYING THAT PROGRAM OF TRAINING GABONESE IN ROMANIA IS DIRECT RESULT OF AGREEMENTS SIGNED BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CEAUSESCU AND BONGON DURING LATTERS STATE VISIT IN JUNE

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1975. NEGREA ADDED THAT STUDENTS WERE SPECIALIZING IN

DISCIPLINES THAT CONFORM TO PRESIDENT BONGOS PRIORITIES
FOR GABONS THIRD FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN, NOTALBY
AGRICULTURE, ATOMIC ENERGY, AND PUBLIC HELATH.

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4. COMMENT: MINISTRY OF EDUCATIO FIGURES INDICATES THAT
UP TO 1974 ABOUT 350 GABONESE STUDNETS ANNUALLY COMPLETED
SUCCESSFULLY THEIR BACCALAUREATE EXAMINATINS. PROJECTIONS
FOR 1976 SHOWED 500-550 BAC GRADUATES PER YEAR, GIBURE
WHICH EMBASSY REGARDS AS OPTIMISTIC. EVEN THOUGH THEORETICALLY
POSSIBLE, IT IS HIGHLY IMRPOBABLE THAT ALL OF 42 STUDENTS
GOING TO ROMANIA WILL BE STUDYING AT "UNIVERSITY" LEVEL FOR
WHICH BAC WOULD BE PREREQUISITE. IN FACT, MEMBER OF ROMANINA
EMBASSY STAFF TOLD EMBOFF SOME TIME AGO THAT GABONESE CAN-
DIDATES FOR STUDY IN ROMANIA WERE SINGULARLY UNQUALIFIED.

5. NEVERTHELESS JUDGING BY NUMBERS ALONE, ROMANAI SEEMS
WELL ON WAY TO OVERTAKING FRANCEA S MOST IMPORTANT FOREIGN
COUNTRY FOR TRAINING GABONESE TECHNICIANS AND UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS. EDUCATION PROGRAM OF THIS SCALE IS ANOTHER
EXAMPLE OF AMBITIOUS SCOPE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS CARRIED
ON BY ROMANIANS IN GABON. STEIGMAN

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